

Claims 1, 5, 7, 17-20, 22-24 and 26-28 are currently amended. The amendments to Claims 1, 7, 17 and 20 are made to present these claims in better forms that are believed to place the application in condition for allowance. The amendments to Claims 5, 23, 24 and 26-28 are made to allow these claims to maintain alignment with the amendments to Claims 1, 7, 17 and 20. Claims 18, 19 and 22 are amended to remove minor typographical errors therefrom.

Support for the amendments to claims 1, 5, 7, 17-20, 22-24 and 26-28 can be found in the specification at Paragraphs [0027] to [0031] and Figures 1, 2, 3 and 5.

With the foregoing amendments Claims 1-11 and 17-28 are pending in this application.

Rejection under 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1, 2 and 4-17 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Karow (US 6,230,893). Claims 7-11 and 26 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Karow (US 6,230,893). Claims 17 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Karow (US 6,230,893). Claims 20-23 and 28 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Karow (US 6,230,893). In response to these rejections, Claims 1, 7, 17 and 20 are amended. Applicant submits that Claims 1, 7, 17 and 20 are now in condition for allowance for the following reasons:

Claim 1 recites in part:

[a]n apparatus ... comprising;
a slide card comprising ... only one tray receiving area;
only one pre-formed tray, attached to said tray receiving area,
configured to receive and hold portable items; ...

Karow fails to disclose (1) an apparatus comprising only one tray receiving area, (2) an apparatus comprising only one tray, (3) only one tray attached to a tray receiving area, and (4) a tray configured to receive and hold a plurality of portable items. It is respectfully submitted that Karow discloses two receiving areas 104 and 120. It is also respectfully submitted that Karow shows a plurality of perforated areas 112 attached to each of the two receiving areas 104 and 120. It is further respectfully submitted that each perforated area 112 is configured to receive only one portable item 122. For these reasons, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Karow.

Claim 7, as amended, recites in part:

[a]n apparatus ... comprising:
a slide card ..., comprising ... only one tray receiving area ...;
only one pre-formed tray ... comprising receiving recesses defined
by said tray, a given said only one tray being attached to said card at said
tray receiving area; ...

Karow fails to disclose (1) an apparatus comprising only one tray receiving area, (2) an apparatus comprising only one tray, (3) a tray comprising a plurality of recesses, and (4) only one tray attached to a tray receiving area. It is respectfully submitted that Karow discloses two receiving areas 104 and 120. It is also respectfully submitted that Karow shows a plurality of perforated areas 112 attached to each of the two receiving areas 104 and 120. It is further respectfully submitted that each perforated area 112 has no recess defined by that perforated area. The Examiner contends that holes 110 in panels 102 and 118 are recesses. Even if they are, none of the holes 110 is defined by any of the perforated areas 112. For these reasons, Claim 7 is not anticipated by Karow.

Claim 17 as amended, recites in part:

[a] foldable tray card ... comprising: ...
a single tray ...;
receiving recesses located within said single tray, configured to

receive and hold items; ...

Karow fails to disclose (1) a tray card comprising a single tray, (2) a plurality of receiving recesses located within a tray, and (3) recesses configured to hold items. It is respectfully submitted that Karow discloses a card with a plurality of perforated areas 112. It is also respectfully submitted that Karow shows no recess at all located within a perforated area 112. The Examiner contends that holes 110 in panels 102 and 118 are recesses. Even if they are, none of the holes 110 is located within any of the perforated areas 112. It is further respectfully submitted that none of the holes 110 is configured to hold an item or items. For these reasons, Claim 17 is not anticipated by Karow.

Claim 20, as amended, recites in part:

placing items in said single tray; ...

Karow fails to disclose the step of placing a plurality of items in a single tray. It is respectfully submitted that Karow discloses a plurality of perforated areas 112 each for receiving only one portable item 122. For this reason, Claim 20 is not anticipated by Karow.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 7, 17, and 20, as well as those claims depending therefrom, are now in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §102(b) is hereby respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 3, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Karow (US '893) in view of Watson (US 4,657,138). Claims 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Karow (US '893) in view of Locke et al (US 4,248,349). However, Claim 3 depends from allowable claim 1, while claims 18 and 19 depend from allowable claim 17. For at least that reason, claims 3, 18 and 19

should also be found allowable. Claims 24 and 25 depend, directly or indirectly, from allowable claim 1. For at least that reason, Claims 24 and 25 should also be found allowable. Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §103(a) is hereby respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the amendments to the claims attached to this response should place the present application in condition for allowance. It is earnestly requested that the amendments be entered and the application be favorably reconsidered.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 132500. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 that is not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to the above Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

/Tsugihiko Suzuki/

Tsugihiko Suzuki
Registration No.: 36,321
Agent for Applicants
Telephone No. (919) 334-3994

MeadWestvaco Corporation
Law Department
1021 Main Campus Drive
Raleigh, NC 27606
E-mail: tsugihiko.suzuki@mwv.com
Telephone: (919) 334-3994
Facsimile: (919) 834-0844